came a cessa tion of criticism. The authorities in Pall Mall and Downing street slept by day and by night in peace; the officers at the front were praised for their courage and success, and their past shortcomings were forgotten. Roborts and Kitchener had proved the gods out of the machine. The Free State, we were told, had collapsed. South of Bloemfontein the country was not only pacified, but the burghers were even anxious for the speedy success f the British arms. Mafeking would be releved almost at once. Pretoria was practically in sight, and the only topic worth discussing was the question of how the conquered republies were to be treated.

Then came a sudden change. Roberts had beens month in Bloemfontein; by that time the optimists had hope i he would be thundering at the gates of Pretoria. Then we heard he had no horses, that his men had no clothes and no boots. And once more the grumblings of the disturbed the slumbers of the authorities in Pall Mall and Downing street. Then the "unfortunate occurrences" began again. Half a dozen Guard officers were shot down ten miles from camp. This by way of prelude. Then came the disaster of the Korn Spruit, quickly followed by that of Reddersburg. Within a week more than six hundred British soldiers and a half dozen guns were off to Pretoria. And we hear that the conquered and pacified Free State from Bloemfontein to the Orange River on the eastern side of the railway is in the hands o the enemy. Fighting has begun again in Natal, the Boers are threatening Bethulie Bridge, Kitchener is down in Aliwal North sending "encouraging messages" to the troops held up in Wepener, and elsewhere the Boers, whose spirit we were told was broken, are acting on the ag-

It is no exaggeration to say that England was and is dismayed. And at the present moment there is a distinct inclination to lay much of the blame for the present state of affairupon the commanding officers. Roberts and Kitchener cannot be everywhere doing everything at the same time: much must be left to their commanding officers, who have been tried in the balance and found wanting. Lord Roberts has acknowledged this. He has sent Gen. Gatacre home, practically shelved Methuen. and within the last few days a general shake-up in commands has taken place.

Continental and American critics have noticed this point from the first. So too have the Colonia troops, and especially the South African volunteers, many of whom point-blank refused to enlist unless they were allowed to serve under their own officers. And now the people at home are beginning to recognize the truth Putting foreign criticism one side altogether. the following case against the present system of the British Army is made out by its own critics both at the front and at home.

Without going back to the thrice-told tale of blunder in the before-Roberts period, without quoting Roberts's measured, but strong and bitter commentary on Gatacre's disaster at Stormberg, or Buller's, "I suppose our officers will learn in time the value of scouting," which he wrote in a official despatch to the War Office, it is striking to notice what criticism more recent events have called forth.

To begin with take the London Times. Letters which appear in its correspondence colimns, even if they are anonymous, are written by room. The correspondence published by the Times discussing the latest "unfortunate occurrences," appears under the headline of "Our Stupid Officers." After the loss of the guns. and the capture of the prisoners at Korn Spruit, the Times's Cape Town correspondent

"All the details which have reached here regarding the disaster at Korn Spruit only serve to bring out clearly the marvellous cieverness of the Boers no less than the marvellous ness of the Boers no less than the marvellous carelessness and improvidence of our officers, whom, it would seem, no series of disasters will ever teach to keep wide awake. The Boers in Col. Broadwood's rear drove his force into the party at the drift exactly as partridges are driven to the gan. At the drift itself, as each wagon went down the hollow, the Boers quietly covered the drivers and pointed where to drive to, so as not to block the convoy. When the guns arrived the trap was all clear again for their reception. To quote the words of one present: It was just like walking into a cloak room. The Boers politely took your rife and asked you kindly to step on one side, and there was nothing else you could do.

"There has already been much talk at home

was nothing else you could do.

"There has already been much talk at home of reorganizing and increasing the Army. The one thing really important is to make the Army intelligent. Our Generals, regimental officers, and soldiers are all brave, none braver, but it is useless to shirk the fact that the majority of them are stupid. The Empire will have no such army as it ought to have until it creates a system of military training which is not calculated to deprive the units of initiative and intelligence.

Commenting upon this stern dictum of the Cape Town correspondent, Col. Lonsdale Hale writes a long letter to the Times in which he stands up for the officers. Yet in his letter he makes many damaging admissions, and the following passages are worthy of thought, written, as they are, by one who comes forward as a champion of the officer:

ward as a champion of the officer:

"And it is the mode in which our peace training has been conducted that is the main source of the carelessness of our officers in war. Over kind-heartedness in the treatment of offenders at our tactical exercises has sown the crop we are now reaping. To come down upon a man for some slilly and idiotic piece of leading has been absolutely repugnant to the directors of these exercises. "As a rule, carelessness in the performance of the details of field service has been treated as a venial offence or sometimes even as a matter for amusement and badinage only. The overwhelming importance of care and precision in the execution of the details of field work has never been impressed on the officers, and that they are important our officers are realizing, in many cases, too late."

The Marquis of Winchlisea, writing on the same date to the same paper says: "I will unwith their eyes on the scenery instead of on the ground we should surround them as easily as they surround us. My inference then is this-that if we cannot, or until we can, train some of our men to track for themselves we should employ men (and this is my excuse for writing now), of whom there are thousands both white and black in all our colonies and now available, who can do it for us. Another thing which strikes a civilian is this; that such an occurrence as the loss of a battery, a troop, a company in, say, the autumn maneuvres seems to be considered as a huge jest, and a subject for light bedinage to which the man responsible for it may be subjected. Sir. a black mark should be put against his name, and he and others should be taught that a mistake n a rehearsal which argues no eyes and less head will incapacitate the perpetrator for a leading part when the curtain rises on a serious

occur in managuvres, the following letter pub-

"Siz: I cannot resist, in connection with the late unhappy loss of guns near Bloemfontein, narrating the conversation which I had ten days ago with a Winchester boy who is about 15 years of age and one of the cadet company of the college. There had been at Aldershof a grand field day for many of the public schools Volunteer corps, and my young interlocutor had been there. During the proceedings the cadet company of some thirty boys of about the same ago as hioself, under the command of

BRITISH ARMY DEFECTS.

CRITICISMS OF RECENT REVERSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Present Army System Declared by British Critics to Be Wrong-Sharp Comments on the Successful Operations of the Boers—British Officers Described as Stupid.

London, April 13.—Until a few days ago the war in South Africa seemed to be sharply divided into two periods, the time before Roberts, and the time after Roberts, and the time after Roberts, buring the former the English press and public complained loudly. They charged the authorities of Pall Mall and Downing street with lack of foresight before the war and with sins of omission after war had begun, while the commanding officers at the front were charged with incompetence and foolish recklessness.

Then Roberts and Kitchener got at work. Success followed success, despatches no longer opened with the ominous phrase. I regret to state," we heard no more of "unfortunate occurrences," and with the cessation of failures came a cessation of criticism. The authorities in Which called them forth, the Times says edistance and on the events which called them forth, the Times says edistance and on the events which called them forth, the Times says edistance and on the events which called them forth, the Times says edistance are constanted in the Prese State as it is left unreheaved at Aldershot."

Commenting on the leivers, and I can best describe what then happened by using his own work as far as I can remember them. He said:

"We had such a lark on field day, for we captured them. He said:

"We will lise don't list and the guns and gunners were all in khaki color as they were going out to the Cape. Well, our division with its guns had to retreat to some place or other, and our; company ought to have got away with them, but somehow we didn't know where to go to. No our sergeant said. "We will like down in this dry division band our company ought to have got away with them, but somehow we didn't know where to go to. No our sergeant said. "We will like down in this dry division band our company o

Commenting on the letters, and on the events

which called them forth, the Times says edi-

"Col. Lonsdale Hale deprecates the severe and somewhat sweeping condemnation of the intelligence of the average British officer expressed in the message of our special correspondent at Cape Town yesterday. But, although it is doubtless true that, while the 'glaring failures' in our leading are published to the world, innumerable occasions on which readiness'and foresight have been displayed are necessarily passed over in silence, the 'glaring failures,' as Col. Hale substantially admits, having been too frequent and too recent to permit of unqualified confidence in the discretion of our officers. We must all trust that the severe lessons of last week have been taken to heart and that they have inspired such a degree of care and common sense into those intrusted with the execution of Lord Roberts's orders as will secure us from a recurrence of those 'unpleasant occurrences. which, as Lord Winchilsea remarks in his excellent letter have become painfully familiar to us. After all, the difference between our correspondent and Col. Hale does not seem to be very great. Both agree that our officers on several occasions have shown a plentiful lack of brains. Our correspondent says bluntly that most of them are stupid. Col. Hale says that the kind of leading we have witnessed in the field is the direct natural result of the treatment of 'silly and idiotic' leading in our peace training, and Lord Winchitsea, who has had an unusual experience of wild life in a rough country, agrees with him. Carelessness and neglect of duty seem to have been responsible for many of our mishaps, and both Col. Hale and Lord Winchilsea complain. n almost the same words, that in our managures and exercises at home these very grave professional offences are habitually treated as venial by the authorities, and as a subject for badinage by the brother officers of the offender. Until our officers are taught by their superiors at home that mistakes which argue 'no eyes and no head' are disgraceful to those who make them, we must expect that they will continue to be taught that elementary lesson at the cost of their own lives of the lives of their men, and of the credit of their country as a military power. There is, as Lord Winchilsen points out, no super human difficulty in detecting the proximity of large bodies of men and horses, even when they do not show up against the sky line. A similar feat is accomplished every day by cowboys and stockmasters in many of our colonies. There are plenty of men now in South Africa quite competent to perform it, and perhaps to teach our officers how it ought to be performed, if only they will condescend to learn.

The Times military expert says: "If the report be true that the escort were trotting placidly in rear of the retreating column a gross military blunder was committed which it would be difficult to characterize too harshly." And apparently the report was absolutely

Then came the Reddersburg affair, 600 mer entrapped and captured, and the Times asks why were no field intrenchments, made, and proceeds: "What Mafeking has done for months a British force of two or three thousof provisions, might do for a day or two or for a week or two, if the methods of Mafeking were adopted. Even 500 men within touch a railway in British hands might considerably prolong their resistance if provided with

also been the complaint of many colonials. Here is the passage:

"To Capt, Tenant no small meed of praise is due. This officer was here on secret service before hostilities commenced, and he did his work so thoroughly that the country is as familiar to him as paint to a barmaid. He is one of those men, unfortunately so rare in the British army combining dash and dauntless pluck with a cool, level head. If he gets his opportunity England will hear more of this officer I have been intensely struck by the class of officers by whom Gen. Gatacre is surrounded. They all lock like soldiers. I have not seen a single dude, not one of those wretched fops of whom I have seen only too many in South Africa. They speak like soldiers too. No diotic drawl, no effeminate lisp, no bullying, ill-bred, coarseness of tongue; they are neither drawing-room dandies nor camp swashbucklers but officers and gentlemen, and I can assure you the terms are not always synonymous, even under the Queen's cloth. I have seen mere lads in this country leading men into action who in point of brains were not fit to lead a mule to water, and others who in regard to manners were scarcely fit to follow the mule. But thank tood, the Boers have taught our nation this, if they have taught un return a neveglass a lisp, a pair of kid gloves, and an insolent, overbearing manner to make a successful soldier." and an insolent, overbearing manner to make a successful soldier."

This has not been a pleasant subject to treat The whole world knows that in the British army are to be found innumerable officers who are men of culture, polish and intellect, Roberts, Kitchener, French, Baden-Powell, Hector MacDonald, and a hundred other names come readily to one's pen, while for personal bravery, it is carried by the British officer, from highest to lowest, and in every type, to an almost foolish extreme. But English people themselves have been persuaded now that their army system is wrong, and in following the course of the war which has carried persuasion with it, it would be foolishness to shrink from placing on record a feature which is so prominent and which has been so fully recognized by English people themselves.

are more fully and ably treated in THE SUN'S

THE RIO GRANDE IN FLOOD. WIDE AND VARIED DAMAGE DONE

BY THE MYSTERIOU'S RIVER. Changes Made in the Mexican Boundary Line -Little Known of Hundreds of Miles of Its Course-Great Extent of the Flood-The Loss of Life - Heroes of the Flood. HIDALGO, Tex., April 25.-Accounts of the

recent floods in western and southwestern Texas

have been taken up mainly with descriptions

of the bursting of the great dam two miles above Austin, and little attention has been paid to the vagaries of the Rio Grande, which has been upon a most pronounced rampage. Not since 1860 has the water been so high, or continued in flood for so long a time. It is a peculiarity of the river that each time it overflows it materially alters the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. In this way it not only affords increased employment to Government engineers, but also it causes endless disputes among customs officials and other people whose duty it is to collect taxes of one sort or another. Now and then an American deputy collector wakes in the morning to find that some thousands of acres of good land, bearing a fine flock of sheep and goats, has been moved into the United States. Naturally he tries to collect duty on the animals and naturally the owner says that, having been moved into Yankeeland by the will of God, he is not responsible and declines to pay. Sometimes this sort of row gets into the Federal courts and drags its weary length along until it reaches the highest court in Washington, where a tremendously heavy decision is handed down favoring one side or the other. Opposite this town is a strip of land which in 1868 belonged to the United States. The great flood of 1869 moved it into Mexico. Seven years ago it was moved back into this country. Three years ago it was moved back into Mexico. The present flood has moved it back into this This strip contains 800 and odd Its owner is Antonio Jesus Maria Garza. He is a ranchman, born in the United States. Seven years ago when the river moved his ranch into Texas the deputy tried to make him pay duty on his cows and things. He carried the case to the Supreme Court and got judgment in his favor. Two months after the decision was rendered, that is to say in about three years, he was moved into Mexico and the collector over there tried to make him pay. He carried the case into the Mexican Supreme Court and won. Now he says that he is immune against customs collectors and it doesn't make any sort of difference to him how often he lives in Mexico or the United States. He has copies of the two decisions and pulls them on any man who looks as if he wanted taxes.

Certainly the Rio Grande is the most mystermiles of it in the aggregate about which no positive information is to be had. Winding its simpos length for more than a thousand miles from the New Mexican hils to Brownstile and below, it is, for much the greater part of its course, unvisited ever, save by an occasional vaguer or cowbox riding the range for strayed stock. The exfoon of the Kio Grande, so-canied, beginning a hundred miles above Earles has never yet been surveyed. So I are as is known only one man has been through it. He wis breach that his friends had been drowned sand manned and miles and immediately disarpeared into Mexico. Maybe his friends have drowned and maybe they were not. Anghow, Antonia had the skins. It is that part of the river which in the year it is a shallow muddy-looking stream, not more than 400 yards wide, with miles of treacherous quicksands and elothed to its lips in a tangle of all sorts of chaparral. In the other month it is a raging torrent, red as biood and foam-crested, hurling itself toward said ways with corpses of aminals. Ordinaryly it is as quiet as any other slow-currented Southern stream, making scarcely a nurmur as it slides along, but in flood theroar of the Rico Grande in flood. The Mexican men and women and children who live upon its banks in little jaculs at wide intervals are swept to death and make no sound that any one may hear. No one knows their names no one misses them; the places whereon their cabins stood are green and overgrown with the content of the Rico Grande in flood. The Mexican no emay hear. No one knows their names no one misses them; the places whereon their cabins stood are green and overgrown with the work of the Rico Grande in flood. The Mexican no em may hear. No one knows their names on one misses them; the places whereon their cabins stood are green and overgrown with the special cabinetics of the Rico Grande in flood. The Mexican men and women and children who live upon its banks in little jaculs at which is a supplied to the place of the red such that the cabines the places whereon rious river between Baffin's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. To-day there are hundreds of murnur as it sides along, but in flood the roar of it is steady and ominous and it sounds over the green tangle for two miles upon either side. It is impossible ever to obtain death statistics of the Rio Grande in flood. The Mexican men and women and children who live upon its banks in little jacals at wide intervals are swept to death and make no sound that any one may hear. No one knows their names; no one misses them: the places whereon their cabins stood are green and overgrown with catclaw in three months time. They simply were and are not. It has been stated that in were and are not. It has been stated that the flood of 1860 the total loss of life was 1 persons, but this is mere guess work. The chances are that the loss was much in exce it, save from the frequency with which drift past the little towns. During the

of a railway in British hands might considerably prolong their resistance if provided with the sort of shelter which the Boers construct for themselves as a matter of course. \* "Bit nothing of the kind is likely to be done unless Lord Roberts issues precise orders. Our officers have not been taught to do be resourceful, nor are they likely to remember that, while they probably know mothing of the Boers that may be in their vicinity, the Boers that may be in their vicinity, the Boers that may be in their vicinity, the Boers certainly know all about them."

Referring to this same affair the Times says of the Boers: Their strategy is daring, and it may expose them to disastrous blows from the greatly superior forces opposed to them. But it ought seemingly to have been impossible, had adequate skill and vigilance been exercised on our side."

To multiply this kind of criticism, and entriey out of the mouths of British crities, whose sole desire is for their army's good, would be a simple matter. In papers, reviews and magazines, in clubs, in the street, in privale houses, you hear the same thins. Just one more point is worthy of notice. The Duly News has at the front an Australian correspondent who left Sydney with some of the Australian troops, his letters show him to be a strong imperialist. a keen observer, and a man of impartial much. British officer—generally the younger officers seem to be concerned—has struck this correspondent strongly. He has given definite and detailed examples of it, but the following short passage will sufficiently indicate what he complains of viz., the puppy," and this has a also been the complaint of many colonials. He can be a strong imperialist. A keen observer, and a man of impartial much provided the stream of the proposition of the provided work so thoroughly that the country is as familiar to him as point to a barrand; the sortice of the provided work is other and the proposition of the provided work is other and the proposition of the provided work is other or the provided wor in blue qualls. The ordinary cotton-tailed rabbit has lived in it in hundreds of thousands. It is believed that the qualis and the rabbits have been practically exterminated, because the water rose so fast that they had no chance It is believed that the quaits and the rabbits have been practically exterminated, because the water rose so fast that they had no chance at all for their lives. The quaits, of course, it imped into the trees when the water came but when the trees themselves went under and there were unbroken miles of flood between them and the foot-bills they had no choice save to drown. The rabbits went to such spots as were left uncovered, and when these got wet the rabbits of the terror of the stricken beasts a terror of the water so fell that they turned to their hereditary enemy, man, for comfort and tried to crowd into the skiffs as they passed near to them, huddled upon some bit of rising ground soon to be overflowed. An excellent opportunity was afforded to destroy predatory animals, such as botstailed cats and leopard cats, but nobody took the trouble to do it, knowing that the brutes were domed to death anxhow. Neither did any one take the trouble to knock the hundreds of rathesnakes from the trees into which they had climbed in the hope of escaping extinction, ordinarily the rather is not a tree-climber, but in a flood such as that which is passing away all natural laws.

Indeed the gloom of the flood, the stience of it and the utter seversed and pretty nearly all natural laws.

Indeed the gloom of the flood, the stience of it and the utter seversed and pretty nearly all natural laws.

Indeed the gloom of the flood, the stience of it and the utter seversed and pretty nearly all natural laws are reversed and pretty nearly all natural laws.

Indeed the gloom of the flood, the stience of it and the utter seversed and pretty nearly all natural laws are reversed and pretty nearly the outside world have had such effect that few men have thought of sport at all. They have spent the time listening to stories brought in of the destruction of ranches, the loss of stock the destruction of ranches, the loss of stock the destruction of ranches, the loss of the flood the denothed and cleanselve the feelt that few men have thought

rained heavily and the country always needs rain. Such casualities as occur up the river do not disturb the valley dwellers particularly, because the Mexican is always fatalistic and he views the death of somebody else with equanimity. The river is just high enough to make it picturesque and the loss of crops is comparatively trilling. When one of these foods comes down in July, as often happens, the young men of the Hidalgo amuse themselves by gathering on the bank, plunging into the torrent and, after a swim of fifty yards or so, laying hold of a watermelon vine and tugging it laboriously to shore. Always attached to the vine are from five to lifteen huge ripe melons. They are piled upon the bank until they make a pyramid 8 feet high and 10 feet through at the base. Then the small Mexican children of the village gather about and feast. It is the base. Then the small Mexican children of the village gather about and feast. It is some fun swimming for watermelons, there being enough danger in it to add spice, but at this time there is no fun at all in watch-

the ecopie, who are poor and improvident that becopie, who are poor and improvident but it will be only temporary. The soil of the valley is so rich and the climate is so void of anything that might be called winter that it is possible for an industrious man to raise four crops in one year from one piece of ground. It is true that the Mexican is far from industrious and it takes a Rio Grande flood to make him work, but in a month the replanted crop will be sprouting as gayly as if nothing had happened and the harvesting will be only a little delayed. The Indian corn, which was swept away or drowned by the water, was more than waist-high and roasting ears would have been plentiful in another two weeks. However, the farmers will have roasting ears in the early part of June as it is, and the field-pea, which is about the only other thing they plant, will grow all the better for the soaking the soil has had. It is the sort of ground which when tickled with a crooked stick laughs in harvest, and a crooked stick is the nearest approach to a plough that many of the Mexican tillers know. It is a country of banamas, too, in plenty, various forms of plantains and other natural breadstuffs. Indeed, the average inhabitant of the valley of the lower Rio Grande is perfectly competent to pull through a disastrous season on pear apples alone, if put to it. Pear apples are the purplish oblong fruit, about the size of a hen's egg, which grows on the ends of the broad elliptical leaves of the prickly pear. It produces chills and fever in one not used to it, but the Mexicans are all used to it and it contains a great amount of nutrition.

Whale the passing flood was in its stage of There will be considerable destitution among

While the passing flood was in its stage of increase a good many village Hampdens ex-posed their dauntless breasts to danger with-out any expectation of reward, thinking, in-deed, little about it. There had been more out any expectation of reward, timiang, indeed, little about it. There had been more
than one notable instance of heroism. José
Bermaiaa, who is a common vaquero, or rider
of unbroken horses, on the ranch of Don José
Sanchez, ten miles above this place, swam his
horse a quarter of a mile five times in bringing out a Mexican woman, named Candelaria
Garcia and her four small children who were
imprisoned in a jacal near the bank of the
river. The flood had poured around behind
the house, cut it off from the higher land to the
east and made an island of the place whereon
if stood. Her husband was away down the
river when the rise came and has not yet been
heard from. He may have been drowned.
Bermana brought the children out one at
a time, went back for the woman and got her
out, too. As his horse was unable to bear

a time, went back for the woman and got her out, too. As his horse was unable to bear the weight of the two, he placed her astraddle of the saddle, tied her to it, started the horse on the return swim, and himself hung onto the animal's tail. He seemed to regard the performance pretty much as a matter of course and accepted a pint bottle of mescal given to him by the ranch boss as ample payment. A mile below the town, Gregorio Flores, a boy 16 years old, standing on the bank and watching the long snake of wreckage twisting down the stream saw the flutter of a dress on the roof of a cabin. He made a quarter of a mile swim to it and found a little Mexican girl, of 7 years. He stayed on the roof until it had drifted

this flood will exceed the loss in the flood of 1869, because the water has been equally sudden in its rise and the valley is much more thickly populated now than then. A conservative estimate would place this loss at not less than 200 people between Eagle Pass and the Gulf. For a year wives will be awaiting the feturn of husbands and children the return of fathers who will never be heard of any more. But, as Alcalde Martine says: "It was meant to happen and it has happened, so let us ask that the flood will not come back soon."

# DOOR KNOBS OF TO-DAY.

They Come in Hundreds of Shapes and Most of Them Are Made of Bronze.

Builders' hardware, comprising such things s door knobs and hinges, and all the various things required in the construction of a house now made in multitudinous variety. The catalogue of a big concern manufacturing such things would be a book of five or six hundred pages in which there would be enumertated things of thousands of varieties. Take, for example, the door knob, which, simple a thing as it might seem, is made now in hundreds of varieties, an essortment that wouldn't have peen dreamed of fifty years ago, when all door knobs were included within a dozen or two varieties.

Then came into use the mineral knob, which plenty of people of middle age will be able to recall. Mineral knobs were made of clays of different colors, and sometimes of clays of different colors mixed, the knobs being baked with a glazed surface. A common and familiar form of the mineral knob was about the color of dark mahogany. In their day mineral knobs were highly esteemed and some of them cost as much as \$12 a dozen pairs. Now there are mineral knobs that can be bought for 75 cents a dozen pairs. Mineral knobs are still used. After the mineral the bronze knob came into fashion: and after the bronze the wooden knob came into more or less extended use. The prevailing door knob of to-day, as used The prevaiing door knot of to-day, as used in cities, is made of bronze. The first bronze knob put on the market cost \$7 or \$8 a pair. Many bronze knobs in one form and another are now produced very cheaply, but it might easily be that fine, handsome bronze knobs would cost from \$2.50 to \$6 a pair. More or less brass knobs are still made, handsome production of the pair of th

ETIQUETTE OF COLD FEET. EMBARRASSING MOMENTS THAT WILL COME AT POKER.

The Three Sheepmen and the Stranger Who Had to Catch a Train The Sherlock Holmes Way Out The Bridegroom's Plea An Imperative Engagement With a Sheriff.

Some rainy afternoon, when I've got nothing to do but sit indoors and wait for people to come and hand me money. I'm going to write a treatise to be entitled 'Poker Cold Feet, from a Pathological and Psychological Point of View,' "said "Doc" Ladd of the Cherokee Nation at an uptown hotel the other night. "Not that I cherish the belief that the grisly symptoms of cold feet in poker are not fully apprehended by the whole community of poker players; but it seems to me that the nature and character of cold feet in poker, together with some general tips as to how and when to get the same, and perhaps a map of the United States showing by shaded sections those parties of the country where it isn't healthful for a man who's a big winner suddenly to acquire a case of trigid pedals in a game of draw, would be a good thing, and that it ought to sell pretty well. We're all subject to sudden attacks of frappe underpinnings when we're 'way to the good in a game of draw, but all of us don't just exactly know how to get away with the proposition. The work of some of us when we get that way is pretty coarse; we're not convincing enough to make it stick; and it occasionally happens that we have real difficulty, or embarrassment at the least, in breaking out into the open with the goods on us. That's why I think a brochure on the subject ought to make a hit.

"I once sat in a game with three sheep men out in Idaho. I didn't know any of them work of the cointragence to come and hand me money, I'm going to "I once sat in a game with three sheep

men out in Idaho. I didn't know any of them very well. From the beginning of the soiree I couldn't lose. I was due to take the midnight train on the U. P. for a town in Oregon, but I hadn't said anything about that before sitting in the game. And when I went right out and got their money in gobs, I didn't feel that it would be exactly dead wise on my part to mention At 11 o'clock, after three hours' play, I had \$1,850 of their money, and still going easy, yanking down three pots out of five. In another hour I had to make that train, and I knew that I could never do it with all that gilt of these sheep men on me. Said I to myself, 'Five hundred's a good enough winning; so I'll just slough off all but \$500 of this bunch, and by that time it'll be midnight, and I can do a sudden eash-in, and maybe they'll let me go away

"So I began to bluff 'em out of their boots. I raised it before the draw and stood pat on king high, and they cussed and laid down; drew to three-card flushes and filled 'em: I'd hold out a dead one to a pair, and draw two more just like the dead one; and it seemed to be simply impossible for me to push any portion of that \$1,850 over to them. On the ontrary, inside of another half hour I was sew more to the good of them, making me \$2.450 winner. I knew that I couldn't get away with all that not with sheep men on the other side of the table; and I didn't want 'em to render me porous and leaky with the forty-fives that they had strapped in plain view around their waists. Neither did I want to do any backing and filling and crawfishing. I'd got their money on the level, and it was mine; and if I couldn't lose it back to them decently and in order at the same game at which I'd got it away from them, then it was up to me to do something else. The tempers of the three sheep men were pretty craggy by this time, and I didn't know what to expect of them; but ten minutes before the train was due, just after I'd hauled in another jackpot worth \$150, I pushed back my chair, stretched my arms, vawned quite cavernously and got up.

"My friends,' said I, hanging on tight so as not to permit my voice to tremble, this concludes my portion of the entertainment.' They all leaned back in their chairs and looked up at me, and they looked darned ugly

at that. "The devil you say!" said one of them.

in the Cherokee country, but up this-a-way such conduct is viewed with disfavor, if not with suspicion, and, anyhow, you're not well sequainted enough around this neck o' sage brush to do a fack rabbit scramble of that sort. You've got to know—

"I cleared my throat loudly, took a grip on the back of my chair, and cut in right there.

"I'm up against it, in a way, I said, and I don't think there was a quaver in my pipes then, 'on account of my neglectfulness. I neglected to state, when I sat into this game, that I'm booked for the west-bound train that creeps in here at madnight; consequently in accordance with the poker code that's lived up to in this section, it's probably not up to me to make that announcement now, when I'm way to the good and expect to hike with my winnings. It's coming to me to state, however, that I'm a square man, and that I got this bunch in strictly on-the-level play. But the business that I'm embarking on this midnight train for is of a whole lot more importance to me than any poker winnings; and I'm not trying to butt the binges off any unwritten poker rules or notions that may preval portance to me than any poker winnings; and I'm not trying to butt the hinges off any unwritten poker rules or notions that may prevail up this way. Therefore, for the sake of being agreeable, I'll just cash in the hundred dollars worth of chips that I bought when I sat in, and you gentlemen may make whatever division of my winnings that best suits you. "The three sheep men listened attentively to that spiel. It was the only way I knew to get out of the predicament. As I tell it now, it may look as if I showed the milk-white plume; but they were three against one, and I never went a-nunting for that kind of bother. When I got through they looked at each other. Then they all got up.

went a-hunting for that kind of bother. When I got through they looked at each other. Then they all got up.

"Cash in your hundred, nothing,' said the ugliest of the three, looking me straight in the eye, and right then I figured that when the shooting began it would be best for me to drop suddenly to the floor and try to crawl to one of the windows. You don't cash in no hundred here. You cash in every damned chip in your stack, and you get away with it, too. We ain't no hogs out this-a-way, and we don't do the baby act when the game doesn't mu our way—not out here in Idaho, we don't; and when a man hands me, for one, a proper talk like that one you've just put up, he gets all that's a-coming to him, and no trouble to follow. You cash in, and you take a drink with us, and we'll put you on the train, and if you ever happen back this-a-way, just dig us up, and give us another hack at you; if you don't happen back this-a-way, it's all right. That's me. "Same here, said the other two in chorus. "That's how I got out of Idaho with \$2.600 of three sheep men's money, when the best I was looking for was a chance to jump out of the window and take the sash along with me. But I was just lucky enough to be up against three square men, and I've seen an exactly similar situation come out altogether differently. This happened in Tacson, about eight years ago. George McAlpin, an ex-soldier of the cayairy, Regular Army, was the man who

middle of the poker table. McAlpin gave the chair a lightning swing, and down it came on the lamp. After the crash the room was black dark, and it's a miracle that some of us weren't punctured in the shooting that followed. McAlpin was wise. The three prospectors figured that he'd take the door, and they shot in that direction. But he took the window for his dropped fifteen feet to the ground, and was of and away before a match could be struck. It was sudden work, but McAlpin was a sudden man. When Tueson heard the story, Tueson notified the three prospectors that the town didn't feel like extending hospitality to people who couldn't stand for little poker losses without gun-plays that put the place in jeopardy of being burnt up, and they took themselves back to their lode in old Mexico.

Thaye also known of some occasions when

those cold feet later on in the day? Here it is just just—"The young man gazed at us helplessly, and then he broke out with:
"Daum it all. I'm going to be married at it o'clock this morning, and I've got to go home and jump into my duds, haven't 1?
"Of course we had to a pologize for accusing him of being a victim of frozen lower extremities, and I guess he started to housekeep with that \$1,500 he took away from us.
"On another occasion I felt resentment in my soul over the desire of a man to quit a wholesale winner and was just about to suggest the hot water cure for his pedals when I was tipped off as to the situation in the nick of time. I got into a game with a Sheriff I knew in a little town in southwestern Colorado, and after we were well under way a dark-skinned chap, with a lot of Mexican in him, stuck his head in at the door of the Sheriff's office, inside the juil, where we were playing.
"Come on in, Jim, said the Sheriff. 'Want to break into this?"
"The man the Sheriff addressed as Jim didn't mind, and he went out for a minute and returned with a sizable sack filled with gold coins. He bought a hundred dollars' worth, and the cards began to filter his way for the go-off. I was sorry the Sheriff had invited the chap in before an hour was over, for be had more than \$200 of my pieces of eight, and the longer we played the more he won. Along about 2 o'clock in the morning Jim looked up at the clock and said that he ruessed he'd pass out—that he had a few letters to write. I felt like being real rude to Jim, and I was just about to tell him that 2 o'clock was a pretty untoward hour for a man to pry himself loose from a game in which he was such a big winner, when the Sheriff gave me a kick on the leg under the table. So I didn't say anything while Jim cashed in, and when he took me by the hand and bade me good-by with quite a whole lot more fervor than seemed to be called for under the circumstances. I wondered a heap just what kind of a proposition Jim was, anyhow. He packed his winnings into the bag he' and went out.
"Huh!" said I to my friend the Sheriff, 'you "Huh!" said I to my friend the Sheriff, 'you It's

took that good and easy, pal, didn't you? It's a wonder you wouldn't let out one roar, anyhow, over that fellow's hiking away with so much of your good dough in his gunnysuck.

"My friend the Sheriff spat at the stove and grinned dreamily." "My friend the Sheriff spat at the stove and grinned dreamily.
"Well, maybe I would ha',' said he, 'on'y I'm goin' to hang Jim at halfpast 7 this mornin', and I guess he wants to git ready for his little parade across the border.
"Jim was hanged on schedule time, all right, and as he swung into the circumambient I couldn't help but feel sort o' guilty for thinking that he'd had cold feet when he drew out of that game."

# DIAMONDS IN BRAZIL.

Plenty of Mines and Precious Stones, but the Industry Languishes.

While the diamond mines at Kimberley have been producing about \$18,000,000 worth of gems a year, the industry in Brazil, formerly the most important diamond-producing country in the world, has fallen to a low ebb. It is now carried on only by individuals or small assointions working in a crude manner. The vield than \$200,000; and yet the quality of the Brazil stones averages higher than that of the Kimberley output.

dustry is partiy because it is carried on in a shiftless sort of a way, but mostly on account of the immense output of Kimberley, which has giutted the market and practically crowded the Brazil mines to the wall. Brazil gems rarely leave the country until they are ready for the jewellers, for they are cut either at Diamantina Gouvea or Rio de Janeiro; while the Kimberley stones are sent to the London market in March every year, and are then distributed to the diamond cutters of Holland and Belgium.

Brazil, however, has practically a monopoly of the carbonado or black diamond which is used in diamond dritts and for other abrasive purposes. It is found, to be sure, in Cape Colony

purposes. It is found, to be sure, in Cape Colony and some other places, but is commercially important only in Brazii.

There is a marked difference between the conditions under which the diamond is found in South Africa and in Brazii. At Kimberley most of the gems are taken from the thick strata of a rottedrock forming blue clay through which the rough gems are scattered; and the mining is carried on simply by digging up this blue clay and passing it through washing machines which separate the gems from the earth. Diamonds are also found in the bed of the Vall River and two or three other places, but nearly all the gems that reach Europe come from the famous. Kimberley formation.

On the other hand, the Brazil diamonds are scattered over a large part of the central region.

famous Kimberiev formation.

On the other hand, the Brazil diamonds are scattered over a large part of the central region of the great archaen formation, which is spread over nearly the whole area of the southern tributaries of the Amazon. Enormous quantities of the precious stones are doubtless imbedded in this hard rock, but the diamonds had been worked very little outside the alluvial lands to which they have been carried in the beds of streams from the ancient formation in which they originated. Thus they are found in the stream beds of Minas Garaes (many mines), Bahia, Goyaz and Matto Grosso. The diggings now in operation are chiefly in the State of Bahia, where, during the dry season, the little water remaining in one or another small stream is turned out of its channel and the gravel is sifted for the gems it may contain. The work zoes on without much method or energy until the rains come, when the diamond digger takes a vacation and work is not resumed until the next dry season.

In 150 years of mining operations Brazil has yielded about \$100.00.000 worth of gems or a total output, which is equalled every six or seven years by the product of the Kimberley mines. The African diamonds are commonly admitted to be less beautiful than those from Brazil, but their total sale already exceeds by millions the value of all the gems Brazil has produced, though African diamond mining has been carried on only about thirty years.

if you come from America, than all the other surprising sights that Paris affords will be the numbers, even hundreds, of women steering their own horseless carriages. Not since diamonds were brought to light or Easter hats in nine mind in France as the automobile

It takes the French woman out of doors, keeps her mind interested and happy, allows her to wear, if she pleases a chiffon frock and gloves of the finest suede, and it never tires or over hents its votaries. Those are some of the reasons why, with their whole hearts and souls, not to speak of quick intelligence, made ame and mademoiselle have thrown themselves into the sport, and why to-day the French manufacturers take more pains in evolving novelties and improvements in the machines intended for women's use than even in the great record breaking fliers ordered by the men. They say it not only pays, because the women are giving up diamonds, frocks, the collecting of old lace, and have even cut down their list of entertainments in order to save up the price of a petit duke or a Stanhope phaeton, but also because in their constant experimenting these Parisian women have discovered and given to the manufact urers many invaluable notions for the improvement of the petroleum carriages. "Two years ago in Paris," said one makes

of automobiles, "there were just two machines of any interest or importance owned by ladies. One was a quadracycle, in which the actress Rejane, ever alive to the advantages of advertising herself, was toe-toc'ed about the streets by a chauffeur in gay costume, and the other was a fine dark brougham in the service of Mme. Rothschild. To-day I make the conservative estimate of at least five hundred horseless vehicles, more or less costly, in the possession of women, and if you want fully to realize the influence feminine taste and opinion has had upon my business, let me point out to you the important fact that, while the English and Americans build their automobiles in simple shapes and paint them in rich dark colors, se, bending to the all powerful feminine demand for novelty and color. have contrived as many as thirty different in every color of the rainbow. Brilliant hues and strange shapes characterize the French carriage, and lovely woman was and is at the

"Here in Paris you see when a woman buys an automobile, and she wont wince even at paying as high as \$10,000 for something she really likes, she goes to a factory and purchases or orders nothing but the running gear. She wants small wheels, a powerful motor and a simple mechanism under her hand, and when that is supplied the bodyless web of machinery on wheels is sent on to her carriage maker. With that individual she then has as many interviews as if he were her most valued dress-maker. for just as every brench wo man de-sires to gown herself with individual distinction, just so does she require her automobile to ex-press her own taste and ideas. Well, you have only to stand here on the Champs Elysees

have only to stand here on the Charms Elysces an hour any day to see what the result is, and to take note that this ferminine tancy for ornamenting the horseless carriages has had its influence on every vehicle that comes from the snops.

Blue, green, red, yellow, black and blue, mauve and gray, purple and white; there is revealed to the onlooker no combination too startling for adoption, but if one has time to examine, the unprejudiced mind will soon learn a few improving and impressive facts about amine, the unprejudiced mind will soon learn a few improving and impressive facts about these ranbow chariots and their gentle occupants. First and foremost, whatever color their vehicles may be, they are sure to become their occupants, and they are inside models of luxurious convenience. Undoubtedly the most sumptuous in their fittings and gay in their colorings are those built for use at shopping and for airings in the park, while the mere sporting traps take on a soherer hue.

There is, for example, the lovely little motor cycle chaise used by Mme. Casimer-Perier for going her morning rounds on the shopping boulevards. That was only brought out last autumn, but it set the fashion all over Paris as a light morning carriege, for it is drawn by a servant man on a quadracycle, and is one of

as a light morning carriege, for it is drawn by a servant man on a quadracycle, and is one of the least expensive motor cycles that can be bought, costing only \$700, and operating at less than eight cents a mile. When the wife of the wealthy ex-President appeared in her low swing applie-green wicker phaeton seat, the upholistering done in melton to match the paint, and the mud guard and handrail done in white enamelied leather, there was a rush on the maker of the original for copies, and with the warm days of early spring the newly built shopping chairs becan scooting about the town in a dozen different tints of paint. Some of them are built wholly of clear yellow basket work and lined with brocaded satin, some of particular fame are lacquered over the whole body in pure white, picked out, with gilt, while the upholistery is done in silver satin.

When Mme. Rejane found that sitting perched on what looks to American eyes like the cowcatcher of a quadracycle was no longer exciting comment, she and her luxury-loving sisters of the stage, with admirable discretion, transferred all their affectious to Le Petit Duke, and of an afternoon down the Avenue des Acacias in the Bois moves a whole train of more or less famous and sumptuously enthroned theatrical queens.

Mme. Rejano goes along steering berself with lazy grace in a duke, all of burning red, set off with gilt and white varnish. Sarah, the aging, but always divine, her autumn leaf hair in the Duke de Reichstadt curl, and her body buttoned slimiy and solemnily in a frogged black satin coat takes her way, her white gauntieted hand on the lever of a dead black duke lined with dull black satin, and a vast heap of yellow roses always pilling the cushions at her feet; the most conspicuously admired figure in the long who who swing the and countries her and server and expressive of the latest agony of the dression, all flowers and laced trimmed paracelle. A high-eet stanhope free anglais, tree clac, with a reat for the dors, is the automobile for modish eminity. She Away because kinds in, one form and one transfer access of the state of the control of the contr